








*Left:* A typical Iraqi classroom before renovation; school supplies are very sparse.

*Above:* Upon seeing the civil affairs team, an entire classroom empties.









*“The schools are in a major state of disrepair. A lot of schools haven’t seen any money in 20 or 30 years... nothing has been done to them since. There are few schools that don’t have all of the windows broken out. They haven’t seen paint, running water, septic systems...anything.”*

GySgt Wesley F. Eyler  
Team Chief, Team 2, Detachment 2, 5th CAG

*Left:* 5th CAG Marines discuss progress of ongoing renovations at another school they are overseeing; GySgt Eyler, quoted above, pictured center.

*“They have stories that will tear you up. A life as they know it is something that you and I would not want to imagine...we have one young lady whose entire family is gone from Saddam—gone. Her family is the Marines—that’s it.”*

LtCol James K. Haldeman  
speaking of interpreters assisting Marines in Iraq

*Facing Page:* An arabic speaking interpreter, right, is an indispensable asset to the CAG team as it assesses renovations at another school.













*“I’ve developed a relationship with a large group of people who I can actually look in the eye and call my friend.”*

*Facing Page and Above:* Before the team departs, they take time for some lighter interaction, which ended with one of the school administrators donning Marine battle gear.

LtCol James K. Haldeman



*“If we could leave here...having made a positive influence with the younger kids—being able to attend a school that is clean, and the bathroom works, and they have furniture, and a chalk board, and windows that work—if we can leave Karmah or Saqlawiyah with a steady water supply with potable water and a workable [medical] clinic to attend, all or any of these successes, I think we can say we accomplished our mission.”*

LtCol Joseph T. Krumm  
Officer-in-Charge, Detachment 2, 5th CAG





*Above:* A young Iraqi boy walks to school in Karmah.





*Above:* Maj Christopher E. Phelps conducts a convoy brief prior to a mission through Fallujah and Saqlawiyah.

*Right:* Civil affairs patrols through Saqlawiyah enroute to a local elementary school.



